

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 to 20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 9 -14, and 18 -20 have been amended. No new matter is added. In addition, several typographical errors in the specification have been corrected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

As an initial matter, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the very helpful telephonic interviews on September 8, 13 and 14, 2004. The Applicants have prepared the current Amendment in view of those discussions. For example, the Applicants have positively recited the feature of a "chemical mechanical polishing pad" in independent claims 1 and 11.

In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, 16, and 18 are rejected as being anticipated by Murthy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,356). In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murthy. In paragraph 17 of the Office Action, claims 7, 10, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murthy in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,525). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The system of amended claim 1 requires, in part, a "seller's computer" for receiving an order for a polishing pad from a customer, selecting manufacturing process commands to manufacture the polishing pad as ordered, verifying that a selected site has the capability and an open schedule to manufacture the polishing pad as ordered, scheduling the manufacturing during the open schedule, and providing an order fulfillment schedule and status tracking of the order. In addition, the system of claim 1 requires, a "manufacturing control computer" for providing manufacturing process commands to a production unit at the site, and a "production

unit" at the site adapted for manufacture of the polishing pad substantially without human intervention upon direction of manufacturing process commands.

In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides a system for manufacturing a polishing pad wherein, upon receipt of an order for a polishing pad from a customer by the seller's computer, the computer, among other things, selects manufacturing process commands. Then, the manufacturing control computer provides the manufacturing process commands to a production unit at the site, the production unit being adapted to manufacture the polishing pad without substantial human intervention. Hence, the invention of claim 1 allows a seller to interact cost-effectively with the customer by allowing them to automate the manufacture of the polishing pad.

In contrast, the disclosure of Murthy concerns a trading decision support system 110 that allows multiple manufacturers to share information, for example, manufacturing inventory and manufacturing capacity, with each other in an effort to optimize their production of, for example, paper products. In other words, the support system 110 assists individual traders or manufacturers in deciding whether to utilize their own inventory and performance capacity or the inventory and performance capacity of others to fill buyer orders (e.g., see col. 8, lines 1-35 and Fig. 1). As discussed above, the invention of claim 1 is concerned with providing a seller the ability to interact efficiently with the customer by allowing them to automate the manufacture of a polishing pad. The disclosure of Murthy is completely void of any disclosure relating to a system for manufacturing a polishing pad. Moreover, Murthy does not disclose a system wherein, upon receipt of an order for a polishing pad from a customer by the seller's computer, a production unit manufactures the polishing pad without substantial human intervention, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Murthy does not teach or suggest the system of

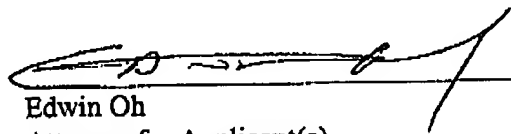
claim 1. Hence, Applicants submit that the current rejection is overcome and respectfully request the Examiner for withdrawal of the same.

Similarly, claim 11 requires, at least, a method for manufacturing a chemical mechanical polishing pad comprising, receiving an order for the polishing pad from a customer, and manufacturing the polishing pad substantially without human intervention upon direction of the manufacturing process commands supplied by a seller's computer to a manufacturing control computer. Accordingly, claim 11 should be allowable along with claim 1 for at least the reasons as provided above. Claims 9-10 and 12-20 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, and should be allowable along with claims 1 and 11 for at least the reasons provided above and for its own unique combination of features that are neither taught or suggested by the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to allow the claims and to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, she is invited to contact the below listed attorney at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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